

## Apostille for documents issued in France

The United States and France are both parties to the Hague Convention which abolishes the requirement of legalization for Foreign Public Documents and simplifies the procedure necessary for French documents to be used in the United States.

Documents issued in one country which need to be used in another country must be “authenticated” or “legalized” before they can be recognized as valid in the foreign country. This is a process in which various seals are placed on the document. Such documents range from powers of attorney, affidavits, birth, death and marriages records, incorporation papers, deeds, patent applications, home studies and other legal papers. The number and type of authentication certificates that you will need to obtain depend on the nature of the document.

**The *apostille* must be affixed at the government agency in the country which issued the original document.**

In France, there is no charge for the apostille, which normally should be ready for pick up in 24 hours.

### **APOSTILLE INFORMATION IN FRANCE:**

For Paris Residents, please go to the following office:

PALAIS DE JUSTICE  
Service Apostille  
*Salle des pas perdus (Kiosque accueil)*  
6, boulevard du Palais, 75001 Paris.  
(Métro: Chatelet / Saint-Michel / Cité)  
Tel: 01 44 32 51 37

**Hours: 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 1:15 - 3:00 p.m.**

For those outside of Paris, please go to the Procureur General or the nearest Appeals Court with questions on which documents require certification for recognition in the United States.

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The Office of American Services continues to perform notarial and authentication services for those wishing to execute documents in the presence of a U.S. Consular Officer. This is **not** an apostille. The fee is \$30.00, or the euro equivalent per initial signature/seal; each additional signature/seal provided at the same time in connection with the same transaction will cost \$20 or the euro equivalent. For this service, you may refer to <http://france.usembassy.gov/consul/acs/notarial/default.htm>

Notarial and authentication services are available Tuesday through Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m., except on American and French holidays, and on the first day following a public holiday. Please bring a passport or other photo ID (passport, *carte d'identité*, or driver's license) as a means of verifying your identity.

*United States Embassy  
Office of American Services  
4, avenue Gabriel  
75382 Paris Cedex 08  
France  
Telephone: 01 43 12 22 22  
Website: <http://france.usembassy.gov>  
E-mail: [citizeninfo@state.gov](mailto:citizeninfo@state.gov)*